

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Missionary to Japan, Hanna Jensen-Reinke (Hanna.Jensen-Reinke@elca.org)

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost † August 26, 2018

LBW-Lutheran Book of Worship WOV-With One Voice

* Please stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *Andante Sostenuto* -Mozart

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you are able)*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

C Amen.

P Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another. Eternal God our creator,

C in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

C Amen.

HYMN LBW # 522 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

²And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve

the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open ¹ to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those ¹ who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them ¹ from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and ¹ the LORD hears them
and delivers them from ¹ all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the ¹ brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles ¹ of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from ¹ every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe ¹ all their bones;
not one of them ¹ shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death ¹ to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous ¹ will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life ¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will ¹ not be punished.**

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything,

to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep

alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I

am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We greet our Lord present within our assembly;
We hear the good news announced clearly to all.
With songs of rejoicing, our praises we are voicing,
As we invoke God's blessing and answer the call.

* **GOSPEL: John 6:56-69** *(please stand as you are able)*

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the

Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of

eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN LBW # 561 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

SERMON

HYMN LBW # 389 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* (you may remain seated)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Every Season* -Joleen Brubaker

OFFERTORY (you may remain seated)

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly,
freely, of your own. With the sunshine
of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by
you, at length believe That more happy
and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYERS (you may remain seated)

A Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A That God bless the church universal in every place, inspiring strength and courage to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel, let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

A That God the creator bless wild animals and family pets, prairies and kitchen gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and hearths, let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

A That God spread the gospel throughout the nations of the world, announcing the words of eternal life to peoples in every land and country, let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

A That God redeem the lives of those who have served in the faith and raise them up, according to the promises of Jesus Christ, the bread that nourishes eternal life, let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

A That God protect members of this congregation along all our ways and empower us to serve Christ in sincerity and faithfulness, let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P That God remember the poor and the brokenhearted and rescue all those in trouble (*especially*), let us pray.

C **Have mercy, O God.**

P Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

* **LORD'S PRAYER** 🎵 (*please stand as you are able*)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

HYMN LBW # 259 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in F*

(a voluntary is a piece of organ music that is played as part of a church service)

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For the Beauty of the Earth

In 1863, Follitt S. Pierpoint was wandering through the English countryside around the winding Avon River. As he looked on the peaceful beauty surrounding him, he was inspired to reflect on God's gifts to his people in creation and in the church. Pierpoint also thought of the sacrifice of Jesus, the greatest of sacrifices, that of his life in return for ours. He originally wrote the text of "For the Beauty of the Earth" as a hymn for the Lord's Supper. The hymn was meant not only as a song of thanksgiving, but as the only thing we could give Christ in return for his mercy and love: a hymn of praise laid upon the altar as a sacrifice.

Altar Flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Alan & Shelly Storch in honor of their 29th wedding anniversary and Steve & Barb Kenning in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary and by Shirlee Mires-Fejes in memory of Ray & Melle Landversicht.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts this morning, Choir sopranos & tenors. Please plan to stay after worship as we gather for some refreshments and fellowship in the overflow area. Next week's hosts: Soul Food Crew who will offer "**Sundaes on Sunday**"!!! You don't want to miss this!!!!

Activity Bags

Activity/Busy/Church bags are available on the coat trees at each entryway and in the balcony. Please feel free to take one for your child to enjoy during the worship service, and then return it to the tree afterward.

Emanubells Needs You!

If you have ever wondered what it would be like to ring bells, now is your chance. Emanubells is in need of at least 2 ringers. They practice on Wednesday nights at 5:30 and play at late service the first Sunday of the month and at early on the second Sunday of the month. If you are interested, Please contact Bill Panning at 419-966-6216. It's a lot of fun! It's mostly smoke and mirrors!

Harvest Home

We'd like to decorate the altar area of the church for Harvest Home - bring the fruits of your harvest to your church home! Fall begins September 22, 2018. If you can bring in some "fall" things to decorate with, it would be greatly appreciated. Please just bring in your fall items to the chapel by Sunday, September 16. We are looking for pumpkins, gourds, apples, fresh garden produce, HOME canned goods in glass jars, mums, baskets, SMALL bales of straw ... anything that "says" fall to you!

Lutheran World Relief

On the Caring Corner table there are instructions for the different LWR kits (Personal Care, Baby, Fabric, School). We are also in need of drawstring backpacks to include with the School kits, and those instructions are on the Caring Corner table as well. Please return the finished kits to the Caring Corner table by October 1, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Betty Mowery 419-966-9027.

Thursday night worship

Our Thursday night service begins at 7 p.m. Tell your friends.

Caring Corner — July and August ****SCHOOL SUPPLIES****

70-sheet wire-bound notebooks	16 or 24-count crayons	dry eraser markers
30-centimeter rulers	2 1/2-in. erasers	Clorox wipes
pencil sharpeners	highlighters	hand sanitizer
blunt scissors	glue sticks	3 x 5 index cards
blue or black pens	plastic pencil boxes or pouches	backpacks and/or the LWR bags

Statistics

8/12 Offerings: \$12,803 (\$40 Endow Fd) (Ellen Lange Mem \$70 Endow Fd)

8/16 (39) communed (37)

8/19 (120) Offerings: \$3,966 (\$45 Bldg Fd; \$20 Endow Fd) (Ellen Lange Mem \$50 Endow Fd)

Simply Giving 8/17-8/24: \$145 Gen Fd; \$20 Bldg Fd

This Week

Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Soul Food
6:30 p.m. Choir Party at Wiechers'
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Worship

Serving Today

Officiating - Pastor Ron Atkins
Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Lay Assistant - Karri Ashbaugh
Sound Board - Marv MtCastle
Acolytes - Emma Rowland & Adara Hildebrandt
Ushers - Joe Kohout, Ronnie Rohrs, Ron Wiechers, Rick Ford
Altar Guild - Elaine Borstelman & Lori Sharpe
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Phyllis Kloos (419-260-6582) or
phyllis_kloos@yahoo.com

Volunteers needed

Readers, sound board operators, and ushers are always needed!!! You can sign up for one week or for a month. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to Betty Mowery or Ronnie Rohrs to volunteer. Thanks!

Choir Party

Ron and Jeannie Wiechers have volunteered to host the back-to-choir party. This end of summer event will be held Wednesday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. Meat will be provided, choir members bring a potluck dish and your spouse/friend/children. You will receive the fall schedule and we will rehearse a few numbers. Ron and Jeannie live at 8245 State Route 6, Napoleon. **Look for the driveway between two orange barrels.**

Message from Transition Team

The Synod has requested our parish's transition team to obtain input from the congregation concerning the pastoral search. The transition's team feels it is important for **ALL** members to complete the survey. Please return the survey to the church office, offering plate or mail by September 16th. Thank you, Ron Wiechers, Lenny Sonnenberg, Dave Schwab, Shelly Storch and Barb Hoffman.

Soulful Stirrings from "Soul Food"

"Soul Food" is a ministry of this congregation. It's not just a meal on Wednesday evenings; it's a time of fellowship. It's not just supper for strangers; it's an outreach. It's not just a "duty"; it's a joy! "Soul Food" is NOT only a "community" meal; it's a gathering together to nourish bodies and souls. Join us! Get acquainted with someone you might not know! And help is needed with all that goes into these weekly meals. Helping hands are **always** welcomed, and you don't have to commit to every week; simply come when you can and help as you are able! We usually get together at 3 p.m. to start "prepping"; the "head cook" for the week determines the menu and usually shops accordingly, but there are still ways you can help. Dishpan hands are ALWAYS in need, We serve from 5 to 6 p.m. if available, take-outs are allowed only after 6 p.m. Concentrating on healthier foods, we'd like to have fewer desserts and MORE fresh fruit!! Salads and fresh vegetables are also welcomed every week. With vacations, work schedules, health issues, family needs, etc., our "crew" is fairly "skeletal" lately, and we welcome YOUR involvement! There is plenty of food, fun, fellowship, and we share prayer concerns each week. Come feed your body **and** your soul!

Thank You!!!

Thank you to all who have been donating their garden goodies to "Soul Food". It is very much appreciated.

DOOR OFFERING

We will have an Endowment Fund door offering on Sunday, September 9, to help reach our goal of \$100,000 so that we may use these funds to further the mission work of the church.

A well-balanced church

The owner of a new puppy got a good laugh when the little dog, out for a walk, had an itch. The trouble was that the itchy spot was accessible only to a hind leg. So, while still walking, the pup tried to scratch and tumbled over, rolling a couple of times before coming to rest.

In several places throughout Scripture, the apostle Paul writes about the church as the body of Christ, and of the importance of each member. Just as the dog needed each leg to stay balanced while walking, so the church needs all the different God-given gifts of its members: preachers and teachers, friendly visitors, generous givers, musicians and singers, wise parents and imaginative children, people to produce and distribute meals, lesson materials, and on and on.

When we start thinking that some part of Christ's body isn't necessary, we risk taking quite a tumble!

God's perfect timing

After serving as a missionary with her husband for 20 years, L.B. Cowman compiled the widely read devotional *Streams in the Desert*. Below are two insights from Cowman about the need for patience:

"God is never an instant too late. He may keep us from the knowledge of what he is going to do; but he always has his perfect plans successfully made. All we need to do is to put ourselves wholly in his hands, ask his guidance, follow his leadings and count confidently upon his blessings."

When I cannot understand my Father's leading,
And it seems to be but hard and cruel fate,
Still I hear that gentle whisper ever pleading,
God is working, God is faithful, ONLY WAIT.